

09/44/683

Abstract of the Disclosure

A self-cleaning optical probe includes a probe body having a window with a surface oriented toward a sample under investigation. A sampling beam carrying wavelengths representative of the sample passes into the probe body through the window  
5 for analysis. A conduit, preferably forming part of the probe body, is used to carry a fluid to the surface of the window oriented toward the sample, and a partition proximate to the window is used to direct the fluid across the window as a laminar flow. The partition further includes an aperture through which the sampling wavelengths pass. This partition also permits a portion of the fluid to pass through the aperture to ensure that the sample  
10 under investigation does not reach the window. The fluid may be a liquid or gas, and is preferably a solvent to maximize window cleaning. Although the fluid may be discharged without entering into the environment being sampled, the fluid may also be discharged into the sample, depending upon the application, volume of the respective fluid/sample flows, and other such factors.